IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1 of the specification, the third paragraph (lines 14-22) is amended as follows:

The overall configuration of this type of hacksaw is generally rectangular. This conventional construction has two significant shortcomings. First, the tension applied to the blade creates a bending moment in the frame member which is focused at the portion forming the 90 degree bend. When enough tension is applied, the frame tends to deform at the bend and may remain in a deformed state if the metal material goes beyond its yield point [[a]] at the bend. Second, the overall distance between the blade and the upper portion of the frame member makes the hacksaw unsuitable for use in tight openings or other difficult to access areas.

Page 2, the first full paragraph (lines 2-25) is amended as follows:

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a hacksaw with an improved frame arrangement wherein the tension load applied to the frame by the blade is distributed along the frame to prevent focusing or concentration of the load at one particular point thereof. To achieve this object, the present invention provides a low profile hacksaw comprising an elongated blade having a cutting edge. A hacksaw frame assembly comprises a rigid I-beam frame member that has a forward end portion and a maximum height portion. Preferably, the maximum height portion is located at the rear end of the frame member, but it may be located intermediate the forward and rearward ends. The frame member has an arcuate portion which extends substantially the entire length between the forward end and maximum height portions and which curves downwardly and forwardly towards the forward end portion to provide the hacksaw with a low profile. The hacksaw frame assembly further comprises a manually engageable handle for manual grasping to enable performance of a

cutting operation wherein the cutting edge of the tensioned blade is engaged with a work piece and moved forwardly and rearwardly to cut through the work piece. A releasable blade tensioning device provides a second blade mounting structure on which the other longitudinal end portion of the blade is removably mounted. The blade tensioning device is constructed and arranged to affect relative tensioning movement between the first and second blade mounting structures to tension the blade in the longitudinal direction thereof. One of the first and second blade mounting structures is provided on the forward end portion of the frame member such that the tension in the blade applies a rearwardly directed load to the forward end portion to create a bending moment which is distributed along the arcuate portion.

Page 3, the first full paragraph (lines 7-12) is amended as follows:

The use of an I-beam in this construction is particularly advantageous because the I-beam provides the frame with increased rigidity without increasing the overall weight of the hacksaw. Specifically, an I-beam frame member of a given weight [[have]] has a greater resistance to bending as a result of a substantial part of the mass being located at the upper and lower end caps in comparison to a square of cylindrical beam of the same weight.

Page 3, the last paragraph (lines 32 and 33) is amended as follows:

FIG. 4 is a view similar to FIG. 2 with added reference lines to illustrate the curvature of [[an]] a frame member of the hacksaw;

Pages 6/7, the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 (lines 23-34 on page 6, and lines 1-6 on page 7) is amended as follows:

FIG. 5 shows the tensioning mechanism 50 mounted to the handle 14. The threaded rod 58 extends through the opening 54 in the lever 48 and is threadedly received within a

threaded bore 66 which is formed in a cylindrical structure 68 disposed within the handle interior 70. The cylindrical structure 68 is supported by arcuately shaped opposing wall portions 72 integrally formed on opposite sides of the handle interior 70. A conventional washer 73 is disposed between the abutment member 64 and the lever 48. Rotating the abutment member 64 in a tightening direction rotates the head 60 and hence the threaded rod 58 so that the rod 58 travels axially inwardly. As a result, the head 60 (acting through the abutment member 64 and the washer 73) forces the lever 48 to pivot upwardly in a tensioning direction. Specifically, the rod 58 is drawn inwardly with respect to the handle interior when rotated in the tightening direction as a result of the threaded engagement between the rod 58 and the bore 66. Rotating the abutment member 64 in a loosening direction rotates the head 60 and rod 58 in the same loosening direction and causes the rod 58 to move outwardly with respect to the handle interior 70 as a result of the same threaded engagement. This pivots the lever 48 [to pivot] in a releasing direction opposite the tensioning direction to release tension in the elongated blade.

Page 8, the second full paragraph (lines 12-24) is amended as follows:

The cutting edge 34 of the tensioned blade 16 is placed on the workpiece at a location where the cut is to be made and the low profile hacksaw 10 is moved forwardly and rearwardly in a reciprocating manner to cut the workpiece. The blade 16 penetrates the workpiece until the inner surface of the frame member 12 comes in contact with the same. The rearward end portion 18 of the frame member 12 is spaced relatively far from the elongated blade 16 so that the user can cut through relatively thick workpieces. The vertical height of the low profile hacksaw 10 between the blade and frame member 12 limits the space in which the saw can be inserted to cut a workpiece, however. The forward end portion 20 of the frame member 12 is sloped and is relatively close to the elongated blade 16 so that

the user can use the forward portion of the frame member 12 and blade 16 for cutting operations in relatively confined spaces.